



**Testimony of the Michigan Campaign Finance Network to the Senate Committee on  
Local Government and Elections on SB 661, November 14, 2013**

Chairman Robertson and Members of the Committee:

I oppose the increase to campaign contribution limits proposed in SB 661 for a very simple reason: 99.99 percent of Michiganders have plenty of "headroom" to give to the candidates of their choosing under the current contribution limits.

That was true of the 2010 gubernatorial campaign, which was the state campaign that attracted the most maximum contributions in the last full state election cycle. Governor Snyder received maximum contributions from 806 persons, 753 of whom had in-state addresses; Virg Bernero received maximum contributions from 73 persons, 67 of whom had Michigan addresses. 820 resident maximum donors is less than one percent of one percent of Michiganders. 99.99 percent of Michiganders could have given more to their favorite gubernatorial candidate, if they had chosen to do so.

It was true for each of you on this committee too. Sen. Robertson had 20 constituents who gave the maximum. Sen. Meekhof had 12. Neither Sen. Brandenburg nor Sen. Young had a resident of his district make a maximum contribution. For each of you, at least 99.99 percent of your constituents had room to give your campaign more money, if they had chosen to do so.

I do not doubt that there are stakeholders who would like to own a greater share of campaign finance action than our current contribution limits allow, so they could assert more influence in all matters political. However, if you double contribution limits to accommodate the one percent of the one percent, you are placing 99.99 percent of Michiganders in a position of comparative disadvantage. It should be unconscionable to give those who are most advantaged an even greater advantage at the expense of the 99.99 percent.

The fact that contribution limits haven't been altered in a long time should be irrelevant. Our current limits are not restrictive to 99.99 percent of Michiganders. This is truly a case of 'what isn't broken doesn't need to be fixed.'

I respectfully suggest to you that the shortcoming in our campaign finance law is an overwhelming failure to require accountability for campaign spending because our disclosure requirements are wholly inadequate. I would be very pleased to work with you on that very serious problem. Our current contribution limits, on the other hand, work just fine for 99.99 percent of us.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rich Robinson".

Richard L. Robinson  
Executive Director

Sen. David Robertson: Maximum Donors, 2010 Cycle

	RICHARDVILLE LEADERSHIP FUND	MONROE	MI	481610000	10000
	BUSINESS LEADERS OF MI	DETROIT	MI	482430000	10000
	CONSERVATIVE LEADERSHIP COMM.	DEWITT	MI	488200000	10000
	MI FARM BUREAU	LANSING	MI	489090000	10000
	MI CHAMBER PAC	LANSING	MI	489330000	10000
	PAPPAGEORGE LEADERSHIP FUND	LANSING	MI	489330000	10000
DANIEL	FARHAT	EAST LANSING	MI	488230000	1000
DANNY	HOGAN	NAPLES	FL	341080000	1000
DOUGLAS	HAMBURGER	BIRMINGHAM	MI	480090000	1000
ARNOLD	JACOB	FRANKLIN	MI	480250000	1000
BRAD	ARBUCKLE	TROY	MI	480980000	1000
CHARLES	BECKER	GROSSE POINTE	MI	482300000	1000
JON	COTTON	GROSSE POINTE	MI	482360000	1000
SEAN	COTTON	GROSSE POINTE	MI	482360000	1000
MJ	MAROUN	GROSSE POINTE SHORES	MI	482360000	1000
NORA	MAROUN	GROSSE POINTE SHORES	MI	482360000	1000
DAVID	NICHOLSON	GROSSE POINTE FARMS	MI	482360000	1000
DAVID	JANKS	BLOOMFIELD HILLS	MI	483010000	1000
LINDSAY	MAROUN	GROSSE POINTE FARMS	MI	483260000	1000
MATTHEW	MAROUN	GROSSE POINTE FARMS	MI	483260000	1000
KIRK	GRANT	COMMERCE	MI	483820000	1000
TONIA	GRANT	COMMERCE	MI	483820000	1000
RANDY	LEGAULT	WHITE LAKE	MI	483830000	1000
JOHN	WATSON	WHITE LAKE	MI	483860000	1000
PATRICIA	WATSON	WHITE LAKE	MI	483860000	1000
CLARICE	ENGELHART	CLIO	MI	484200000	1000
JOHN	ENGELHART	CLIO	MI	484200000	1000
GREGORY	HETZER	CLIO	MI	484200000	1000
LORI	HETZER	CLIO	MI	484200000	1000
MARK	NAGY	CLIO	MI	484200000	1000
ROBERT L.	BOURDEAU	FENTON	MI	484300000	1000
JEFFREY	BUNDY	FENTON	MI	484300000	1000
VINCE	LORRAINE	FENTON	MI	484300000	1000
DONALD	WEBER	FENTON	MI	484300000	1000
ROBERT	EASTMAN	FLUSHING	MI	484330000	1000
JOHN	GOIDOSIK	FLUSHING	MI	484330000	1000
LISA	GOIDOSIK	FLUSHING	MI	484330000	1000
HEATHER	HEBNER	FLUSHING	MI	484330000	1000
HEATHER	BONDRA	GAINES	MI	484360000	1000
JOSEPH	BONDRA	GAINES	MI	484360000	1000
JENNIFER	BYRNE	GRAND BLANC	MI	484390000	1000
BONNIE	GRAFF	GRAND BLANC	MI	484390000	1000
MAX	GRAFF	GRAND BLANC	MI	484390000	1000
JOHN	KING	GRAND BLANC	MI	484390000	1000
NANCY	KING	GRAND BLANC	MI	484390000	1000
SCOTT	MISENER	GRAND BLANC	MI	484390000	1000
JULIE	SERRA	GRAND BLANC	MI	484390000	1000

Sen. David Robertson: Maximum Donors, 2010 Cycle

RICHARD	SHICK	GRAND BLANC	MI	484390000	1000
ROSE MARIE	SHICK	GRAND BLANC	MI	484390000	1000
STEVEN	SMITH	GRAND BLANC	MI	484390000	1000
JASON	WATSON	GRAND BLANC	MI	484390000	1000
MICHELLE	WATSON	GRAND BLANC	MI	484390000	1000
RANDOLPH	WISE	GRAND BLANC	MI	484390000	1000
JOSEPH	SERRA	GRAND BLANC	MI	484390000	1000
PAUL	GAMBKA	HOLLY	MI	484420000	1000
DICK	PINAGEL	HOLLY	MI	484420000	1000
KAREN	PINAGEL	HOLLY	MI	484420000	1000
DEREK	BROOKSHIRE	SWARTZ CREEK	MI	484730000	1000
VICTORIA	BROOKSHIRE	SWARTZ CREEK	MI	484730000	1000
BRAD	SEKULICH	SWARTZ CREEK	MI	484730000	1000
ROSE	SEKULICH	SWARTZ CREEK	MI	484730000	1000
CARROLL	BAKER	FLINT	MI	485070000	1000
MARK	ENEIX	FLINT	MI	485070000	1000
AL	KOEGEL	FLINT	MI	485070000	1000
BARBARA	KOEGEL	FLINT	MI	485070000	1000
MARC	SOMERS	BURTON	MI	485290000	1000
KIMBERLY	GRAY	FLINT	MI	485320000	1000
JUDY	GEORGE	CHESANING	MI	486160000	1000
JULIE	GEORGE	CHESANING	MI	486160000	1000
NATALIE	GEORGE	CHESANING	MI	486160000	1000
VALERIE	APPLEGATE	HASLETT	MI	488400000	1000
KELLIE	DEAN	OKEMOS	MI	488640000	1000
MICHAEL	JANDERNOA	GRAND RAPIDS	MI	495030000	1000
JC	HUIZENGA	GRAND RAPIDS	MI	495120000	1000
SUSAN	JANDERNOA	GRAND RAPIDS	MI	495460000	1000
STEVEN	STEWART	BARSTOW	CA	923110000	1000

District residents highlighted

Sen. Arlan Meekhof: Maximum Donors, 2010 Cycle

	MICH BEER & WINE WHOLE PAC	LANSING	MI	489330000	10000
MATTHEW	MOROUN	GROSSE POINTE FARMS	MI	482360000	1000
SHAWN	GARY	ADA	MI	493010000	1000
GARY	GRANGER	BYRON CENTER	MI	493150000	1000
MICHAEL J.	SCHAAP	GRAND HAVEN	MI	494170000	1000
JAMES	VANDYKE	GRAND HAVEN	MI	494170000	1000
TERRY A.	GENTRY	HOLLAND	MI	494230000	1000
JAMES L.	JURRIES	HOLLAND	MI	494230000	1000
VIRGINIA	JURRIES	HOLLAND	MI	494230000	1000
ANNE	LISCOWICZ	SPRING LAKE	MI	494560000	1000
CHRIS	LISCOWICZ	SPRING LAKE	MI	494560000	1000
GARY	VERPLANK	SPRING LAKE	MI	494560000	1000
MICHAEL	VOLKEMA	SPRING LAKE	MI	494560000	1000
MERLE	DEWITT	WEST OLIVE	MI	494600000	1000
JANICE	MEEKHOF	ZEELAND	MI	494640000	1000
SIDNEY	MEEKHOF	ZEELAND	MI	494640000	1000
JOHN	KENNEDY III	KENTWOOD	MI	495120000	1000

District residents highlighted

Sen. Jack Brandenburg: Maximum Donor, 2010 Cycle

SAGINAW PAC	MI	486030000	10000
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Sen. Coleman Young: Maximum Donor, 2010 Cycle

JON	STRYKER	KALAMAZOO	MI	490050000	1000
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